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| 09/917,729 | 07/31/2001 | Masahiro Terada | 0879-0345P | 1253 |

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EXAMINER

SHIN, KYUNG H

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2143

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/917,729

Applicant(s)

TERADA, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Kyung H Shin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application papers filed 7/31/2001
2. Claims 1 - 37 are pending. Independent claims are 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20, 32, 34, 36.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1 - 3, 5, 6, 8 - 11, 13, 14, 20 - 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (US Patent No. 20030115277) in view of Rezvani et al (US Patent No. 6,686,838).**

Regarding Claim 1, Watanabe discloses a communication apparatus, comprising:

- b) a displaying device that displays the images received from the camera by the first communication device and displays a service menu showing services offered by a service center for the user; (see Watanabe paragraph [0018], lines 1-6: images are displayed on user system)

- c) a selecting device that selects an image among the images displayed by the displaying device and selects a service among the services displayed by the displaying device; (see Watanabe paragraph [0064], lines 4-13: user selects service to be performed)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that receives images. (see Watanabe paragraph [0017], lines 1-3: images received from user). Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a first communication device that receives identification information of a camera owned by a user from the camera; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)
- d) Watanabe does not disclose a camera device that transmits its identification information to a communications node. However, Rezvani discloses a second communication device that transmits the identification information, the image and information indicating the service to the service center through a network. (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote

registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34: “ ... *provide improved systems and methods for remotely registering devices* ... ”)

Regarding Claim 2, Watanabe discloses the communication apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein:

- b) the second communication device starts communicating with the service center through the network as need arises. (see Watanabe paragraph [0065], lines 1-6: service center contacted when service ordered)
- a) Watanabe does not disclose a first communications device that automatically start communications. However, Rezvani discloses the first communication device automatically starts communicating with the camera when the user connects the camera with the first communication device; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: identification information is automatically transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to automatically transmit identification information for a camera to a service center as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claims 3, 5, Watanabe discloses a server, comprising:

- b) a recording device that records the identification information and a service menu showing services to be offered to the user; (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 4-5: identification information maintained; paragraph [0064, lines 4-13: services offered) and
 - c) a reading device that reads the service menu from the recording device according to the identification information; wherein the communication device transmits the service menu to the user. (see Watanabe paragraph [0018], lines 1-6: service menu is transmitted to user)
- a) Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a communication device that receives identification information of a camera owned by a user from the user; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claims 6, 11, 14, Watanabe discloses the server, service center as defined in claims 5, 10, 13, wherein the user information includes at least one of

the following: a delivery address, a distribution destination of image or audio data, a financial source, a password, an address, a name, a gender, a birthday and an age. (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 1-5: user information-password)

Regarding Claims 8, 10, Watanabe discloses a server, service center, comprising:

- b) a recording device that records the identification information and utility data showing services used by the user; (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 4-5: user identification information maintained)
 - c) a reading device that reads the utility data from the recording device according to the identification information; (see Watanabe paragraph [0019], lines 1-3: specific user information read) and
 - d) a determining device that determines an order of services in a service menu to be offered to the user in accordance with the utility data; wherein the communication device transmits the service menu showing the services in the order determined by the determining device. (see Watanabe paragraph [0018], lines 1-6; paragraph [0019], lines 1-3: menu base on user information)
- a) Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a communication device that receives identification information of a camera owned by a user from the

user; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claims 9, 23, 27, 31, Watanabe discloses a server, comprising:

- b) a recording device that records the identification information and a password; (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 1-5: password access, user information maintained)
 - c) a verifying device that reads the password from the recording device according to the identification information and verifies the password received by the communication device with the password read; and a device that allows services to the user when the passwords are the same and prohibits the services to the user when the passwords are different. (see Watanabe paragraph [0069], lines 4-6: menu is displayed only if password is valid)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that receives a password of the user for user access. (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 1-5:

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password associated with user) Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a communication device that receives identification information of a camera owned by a user from the user; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claim 13, Watanabe discloses the service center as defined in claim 10, wherein the service includes at least one of the following: an image or audio distributing service, an image printing service, a service for publicly opening an image on a network, and a service for saving an image in a server. (see Watanabe paragraph [0064], lines 11-13: service- image printing service)

Regarding Claim 20, Watanabe discloses a service method, comprising the following steps of:

- b) displaying the images and a service menu showing services to be offered by a service center on a displaying device of the communication

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apparatus; (see Watanabe paragraph [0071], lines 3-8: user images are displayed in a selectable menu)

- c) selecting a service from the service menu, or selecting the service and an image among the images; (see Watanabe paragraph [0071], lines 6-8; paragraph [0063], lines 1-5: user selects an image or a service)

- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that receives images. (see Watanabe paragraph [0017], lines 1-3: images received from user).

Watanabe does not disclose that receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani receiving identification information of the camera from a camera connected with a communication apparatus and; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

- d) Watanabe discloses transmitting information indicating the service selected (see Watanabe paragraph [0064], lines 4-13: service menu), transmitting the identification information and the images through a network (see Watanabe paragraph [0017], lines 1-3: images received from user). Watanabe does not disclose transmitting identification information for a camera. However, Rezvani discloses transmitting identification information, (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit identification

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information for a camera to a service center as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claims 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, Watanabe discloses the service method as defined in claims 20, 24, 28, wherein:

- b) the server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has a recording device that records the identification information and user information on the user; (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 4-5: user information maintained) and
 - c) the server reads the user information from the recording device on reception of the identification information from the service center and transmits the user information to the service center. (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 1-5: user information is transmitted to the service center)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that receives images. (see Watanabe paragraph [0017], lines 1-3: images received from user). Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses the communication apparatus connects to the service center and transmits the identification information

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to the service center; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claim 24, Watanabe discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

- b) the server selects the service menu from the recording device on reception of the identification information from the user and transmits the service menu to the user. (see Watanabe paragraph [0018], lines 1-6: services menu)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node stores information for a service menu. (see Watanabe paragraph [0064], lines 4-13: services menu). Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has a recording device that records the identification information; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claim 28, Watanabe discloses the service method as defined in claim 20, wherein:

- b) the server reads the utility information from the recording device on reception of the identification information from the user, determines an order of the services in the service menu in accordance with the utility information, and transmits the service menu in the order to the user. (see Watanabe paragraph [0018], lines 1-6: menu ; paragraph [0019], lines 1-3: menu display specific to user)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that records utility information (user information service menu information) related to services used by the user. (see Watanabe paragraph [0068], lines 4-5: user information maintained). Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a server which communicates with the communication apparatus through the network has a recording device that records the identification

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information; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

Regarding Claim 32, Watanabe discloses a service method in which a recording device records identification information of a camera owned by a user and user information on the user, and at least one of the following is offered: an image or audio distributing service, an image printing service, a service for publicly opening an image on a network, and a service for saving an image in a server, said service method comprising the steps of:

- b) reading the user information from the recording device according to the identification information to specify the user, and providing the service to the user. (see Watanabe paragraph [0019], lines 1-3: only specific images for a specific are displayed in menu)
- a) Watanabe discloses a communications node that receives images. (see Watanabe paragraph [0017], lines 1-3: images received from user) and receiving service information from a user. (see Watanabe paragraph

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[0064], lines 4-13: user menu selection information recorded) Watanabe does not disclose receiving identification information of a camera.

However, Rezvani discloses receiving the identification information from the user; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit/receive identification information for a camera as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

5. Claims 4, 7, 12, 15, 33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe-Rezvani as applied to claims 3, 5, 10, 13, 32, above and further in view of Rantze et al (US Patent No. 6,726,094).

Regarding Claims 4, 7, 12, 15, 33, Watanabe discloses the collection of user time and cost information for performed services. (see Watanabe paragraph [0041], lines 13-15) Watanabe does not specifically disclose a payment protocol used to pay for services performed. However, Rantze discloses the server as defined in claims 3, 5, 10, 13, 32, further comprising:

- a) a payment information recording device that records the identification information and a method of payment; (see Rantze col. 3, lines 30-34: payment options are presented)
- b) a payment method reading device that reads the method of payment from the payment information recording device according to the identification information received; (see Rantze col. 3, lines 34-37: payment method is processed (i.e. credit card)) and
- c) a charge receiving device that receives a charge for a service in accordance with the method of payment read by the payment method reading device. (see Rantze col. 3, lines 37-43: payment charge information is processed to complete transaction)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to capture information concerning payment for services as taught by Rantze. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rantze in order to provide secure transactions in a network communications environment. (see Rantze col. 1, lines 47-51: “ ... *makes transactions at self-service terminals more secure, ... allows the capture and retention of data needed to verify a transaction, such as a customer credit or debit card image, a customer signature, or a visual image of the customer ...* ”)

6. Claims 16 - 19, 34, 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe-Rezvani and further in view of Bancroft et al (US Patent No. 6,584,375).

Regarding Claims 16, 18, 34, 36, Watanabe discloses a service center, the service center comprising:

- a) Watanabe does not disclose a communications device that receives identification information of a camera. However, Rezvani discloses a communication device that receives identification information of the camera from the user; (see Rezvani col. 2, lines 9-14; col. 7, lines 1-8: camera identification information is transmitted)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to transmit identification information for a camera to a service center as taught by Rezvani. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rezvani in order to provide improved and efficient systems and methods for remote registration of devices. (see Rezvani col. 1, lines 32-34)

- b) Watanabe discloses recording of identification information. Watanabe does not disclose processing after sales service information. However Bancroft discloses after-sales service information; (see Bancroft col. 33, lines 15-22; col. 43-49: history (after sales) information is stored) and

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- c) Watanabe does not disclose reading and transmitting after sales service data to the user. However, Bancroft discloses the communications device transmitting after-sales service data to the user. (see Bancroft col. 33, lines 15-22; col. 43-49: user may be prompted to purchase other products or services based on history (after-sales) information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to capture and process after sales user information as taught by Bancroft. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Bancroft in order to enhance customer interaction utilizing a variety of user interfaces in a networked environment. (see Bancroft col. 40, lines 16-17: “ ... *system and method of the invention, a variety of user interfaces are utilized...* ”; col. 40, lines 50-52: “ ... *invention is susceptible to broad utility and application ...* ”)

Regarding Claims 17, 19, Watanabe discloses the storage of user information within a database. Watanabe does not disclose processing after-sales service information to update user information. However, Bancroft discloses as defined in claim 16, wherein the after-sales service information is updating information of a program for the camera. (see Bancroft col. 33, lines 15-22; col. 43-49: history (after-sales) information updated for user)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to capture and process after-sales service information as taught by Bancroft. One of ordinary skill in the art would

be motivated to employ Bancroft in order to enhance customer interaction utilizing a variety of user interfaces in a networked environment. (see Bancroft col. 40, lines 16-17)

7. Claims 35, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe-Rezvani-Bancroft as applied to claims 34, 36 above and further in view of Rantze et al (US Patent No. 6,726,094).

Regarding Claims 35, 37, Watanabe discloses the collection of user time and cost information for performed services. (see Watanabe paragraph [0041], lines 13-15) Watanabe does not specifically disclose a payment protocol used to pay for services performed. However, Rantze discloses the server as defined in claims 34, 36, further comprising:

- a) a payment information recording device that records the identification information and a method of payment; (see Rantze col. 3, lines 30-34: payment options are presented)
- b) a payment method reading device that reads the method of payment from the payment information recording device according to the identification information received; (see Rantze col. 3, lines 34-37: payment method is processed (i.e. credit card)) and
- c) a charge receiving device that receives a charge for a service in accordance with the method of payment read by the payment method

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reading device. (see Rantze col. 3, lines 37-43: payment charge information is processed to complete transaction)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watanabe to capture information concerning payment for services as taught by Rantze. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Rantze in order to provide secure transactions in a network communications environment. (see Rantze col. 1, lines 47-51)

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KHS

Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

KHS
Dec. 26, 2004



ZARNI MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER